

**For Immediate Release**

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**HERSETH SANDLIN STATEMENT ON HOUSE TAX VOTE**

Washington, DC (December 2, 2010)- Today, U.S. Rep. Herseth Sandlin voted against H.R. 4853, a bill that would have added \$1.5 trillion to the national debt. She released the following statement:

"As the economy recovers, I continue to support a one to two-year extension of all of the expiring 2001 and 2003 tax cuts. I think this way forward makes sense in order to provide all families and small businesses the certainty required to plan and make sound budget decisions. Small businesses in particular are the backbone of our economic recovery, and they need the confidence and stability to continue to grow.

"Today's bill disregards these considerations and has no chance of passing the Senate. Moreover, it is not a prudent way forward given our very serious situation with the national debt. A short-term bridge is needed until the economy has fully recovered from the worst recession since the Great Depression, but digging ourselves so deeply into long-term debt, without having adopted a comprehensive plan in statute to put our nation's finances on a sustainable course, will only undermine our nation's economy in the end.

"Such a course of action would also preempt an important bipartisan process. The bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform has set a vote for tomorrow on its comprehensive plan to reduce the mounting debt our nation faces. Its chairmen, former President Clinton Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles and former Republican Senator of Wyoming Alan Simpson, have done a commendable and important job in putting on the table the kind of plan in which everyone shares the pain of getting our debt, which has mounted in both Republican and Democratic administrations and congresses, under control. A measure of the shared sacrifice proposed in their plan is the support it has already gained from conservative Republican Senators Mike Crapo of Idaho and Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, and from our neighboring Democratic Senator Kent Conrad of North Dakota.

"I may not like or support each individual proposal in the plan, but that cannot be the test of our nation's leaders or of the people we serve. If none of us accepts some tough trade-offs, we all lose. We are running enormous risks the longer we put off coming to grips with the unsustainable course we're on, and I am convinced we will either take action ourselves or our future will be dictated by others. I for one will not stand by and permit our great country to be beholden to its bankers in foreign nations, to seeing an ever larger share of our nation's economic output diverted to debt service, instead of being invested in the private sector economy and in our educational system, the strengths of which are essential for the U.S. to remain a leader of the world in coming decades. We need both a short-term plan to boost the economy and a long-term plan to get our debt under control. I believe the responsible middle course is a short-term extension of all of the tax cuts."

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